

Delaware P-20 Council
Educator Supports for Early Literacy Through Institutions of
Higher Education Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes
FINAL

Delaware State University
1200 North DuPont Highway Dover, DE 19901
Education and Humanities (EH) Building, Conference Room 109
June 24, 2019
2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Shelley Rouser, Delaware State University; Carol Vukelich, University of Delaware; Kathryn Brown, Wilmington University; Matthew Burrows, Appoquinimink School District; Kim Krzanowski, Department of Education; Mary Pieri, Christina School District; Jessica Walsh, Christina School District; Raushann Austin, Department of Education; Wali Rushdan, State Board of Education; Germaine Solomon, Delaware Technical Community College.

Others Present: Jenna Ahner, State Board of Education; Dawn McHugh, State Board of Education; Caitlin Gleason, Department of Education.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Rouser called the meeting to order at 2:05p.m.

II. Approval of May 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Burrows and seconded by Ms. Brown to approve the May 2, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

III. Office of Early Learning – Context to Set Stage for Next Meeting

Caitlin Gleason, Office of Early Learning, Department of Education, discussed the Office of Early Learning's partnership with the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood. She discussed work underway related to professional development for those working with children ages birth through age 5. She discussed trainings available, including general training and customized trainings and the desire to connect these trainings with those available for K-2 teachers.

Committee members discussed key barriers to implementation of professional development, challenges relating to the current workforce, and opportunities to professionalize the early education field.

The Committee asked about current hours and subjects required for training for early childhood educators in Delaware, and the requirements of surrounding states. Committee members noted that there are limited literacy trainings currently available. Members asked about alignment with the Early Childhood Council's work.

IV. Review and Discuss Current Literacy Requirements in ECE and Elementary Teacher Education

Dr. Rouser provided an overview of work to date and the timeline for the Committee's work moving forward.

Dr. Vukelich provided an overview of current requirements for early childhood and elementary teachers. She reviewed current regulations and current requirements for higher education programs, including CAEP and NAEYC standards. She outlined three categories discussed in meetings to date: licensure and certification requirements, program approval, and quality assurance. She reviewed example recommendations relating to teacher preparation in these priority areas.

V. Draft Policy and Programmatic Recommendations for IHE Undergraduate Programs

The committee broke into small groups to generate and discuss recommendations related to teacher preparation to support early literacy.

VI. Small Group Share Out and Group Consensus

The group reconvened to share recommendations and questions generated within each small group.

Members discussed teacher preparation program requirements and raised questions regarding the evidence of knowledge that is required within these programs. Members discussed the desire to host a summer institute for teachers and college instructors in partnership with DDOE and Delaware's Colleges and Universities.

Members discussed year-long residencies, student teaching experiences, and micro-credentials created by higher education institutions. Members discussed the importance of aligning high quality early learning experiences, using trauma-informed practices, and assuring culturally-informed practices to support early literacy.

The group discussed the value of utilizing data on 3rd grade reading proficiency with type of academic degree earned to help inform work moving forward.

VII. Next Steps

Dr. Rouser and Dr. Vukelich outlined next steps for the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.